National Aluminium Company did not respond to bear the capital cost though initially committed for the same, despite repeated correspondence from Divisional authorities at Khurda Road.

Laying of Hoshiarpur-Una rail line

†1503. SURI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had proposed to lay a railway line from Hoshiarpur in Punjab to Una in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had also conducted a survey of this railway line;

(c) if so, the amount of money for which a provision was made by the survey team for laying of this railway line; and

(d) the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The survey for new line from Hoshiarpur to Una had been conducted in 1999-2000.

(c) As per survey report, the estimated cost of the project was assessed as Rs. 143.41 crore.

(d) The proposed new line was not taken up due to its un-remunerative nature and constraint of resources.

Looting of passengers on Jan Sadharan Express by GRP

1504. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GRP Jawans have looted the passengers on Jan Sadharan Express between Aligarh and Tundla Stations recently;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken, so far, to punish the guilty; and

(c) the details of the future plan to prevent such incidents and ensure full security and safety to railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. A bonafide passenger named Shri Shamim Milvi of Train No.2388 Down Jan Sadharan Express made a complaint against on duty Government Railway Police (GRP) escort personnel named Const. Ramveer Singh, Const. Jai Veer Singh and one other jawan regarding snatching of money from him while travelling in the above train on 20.03.2007.

(b) A case *vide* Crime NO.9/07 under Section 384/323/504/506 Indian Penal Code was registered at GRP/Tundla against the above mentioned Governinent Railway

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Police (GRP) staff After investigation, Shri Gautam Singh Yadav, Station Officer/ Government Railway Police/Tundla submitted Final Report No.19 dated 20-4-2007 stating that the allegation could not be substantiated.

(c) The following steps are being taken to prevent such incidents of misconduct on part of Government Railway Police (GRP)/Railway Protection Force (RPF):—

- Whenever any instance of harassment to passengers by the RPF, Government Railway Police (GRP) or Escort Party of Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police (GRP) comes to notice of the administration, the erring staff is taken up suitably under the extant Provisions of law.
- Regular surprise checks and inspections are conducted by officers of Railway Protection Force to detect any misconduct on part of Railway Protection Force staff and delinquent staff are suitably taken up under extant provisions of Discipline and Appeal Rules. The following steps have been taken to ensure security and safety of Railway Passengers:—

(i) As on 20.08.2007, about 1336 trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force and about 2186 trains are being escorted by the Government Railway Police (GRP) in the vulnerable sections for security of passengers.

(ii) Frequent announcements are made through Public Announcement Systems as well as Loud hailers to sensitize passengers regarding the *modus-operandi* of terrorists, criminals indulging in drugging etc. Passengers are being advised not to touch unclaimed objects and instead inform Police/Railway Protection Force and not to accept eatables from strangers/co-passengers etc. during such announcements.

(iii) Special Squads have been formed to tackle menace of drugging, crime against women, etc.

Operation of AC local trains by private players

1505. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed Western Railway to invite private players to own and operate an air conditioned local train in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have plan to allow such privatization in other Railways also and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal. However, Western Railway has been asked to conduct a comprehensive study to establish the feasibility of introducing Air Conditioned EMU Services.